

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03800 01 OF 03 271744Z
ACTION AID-59

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P R 271505Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6382
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 TEL AVIV 3800

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, IS, US, JO
SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM CONSULTATIONS - U.S. TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING
WITH ISRAELIS

REFS: (A) STATE 110436, (B) STATE 88419, (C) AMMAN 1688,
(D) STATE 54825, (E) STATE 72072, (F) TEL AVIV 942

SUMMARY: ON MAY 25, 1977, U.S. TECHNICAL TEAM MET WITH
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN LINE WITH U.S. GOOD OFFICES
ROLE, TO OBTAIN FURTHER RESPONSE TO GOJ ON FIVE AREAS OF
CONCERN RAISED BY ISRAELIS WITH RESPECT TO CONSTRUCTION
OF MAQARIN DAM, OVERALL, GOI DELEGATION AGIAN EXPRESSED
DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH ITS NEIGHBOR, JORDAN, ON MAQARIN
DAM DEVELOPMENT, WHICH THEY FELT WAS A DESIRABLE PROJECT.
ISRAELI COMMENTS AT MEETING WERE CONSISTENT WITH THOSE
MADE BY KANTOR AT MARCH 25, 1977, MEETING IN WASHINGTON
AND PROVIDED FURTHER ELABORATION AND CLARIFICATION OF
GOI POSITION ON FIVE AREAS OF CONCERN. EXCEPT FOR THE KEY
ISSUE OF WEST BANK WATER AVAILABILITY WHICH GOI FEELS
CANNOT BE IGNORED AND WILL THUS REQUIRE FURTHER CONSUL-
TATION WITH JORDAN, PROGRESS WAS MADE ON SUCH OTHER ISSUES
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03800 01 OF 03 271744Z

AS WATER AVAILABILITY FOR THE YARMOUK TRIANGLE, WATER
FLOW AND QUALITY AND ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT. GOI HAS
NOT CONCEDED ON THE PALESTINE ELECTRIC POWER CONCESSION,
BUT THIS WAS NOT REPRESENTED BY GOI AS SIGNIFICANT OR
IMMEDIATE ISSUE. IN ADDITION, ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DELE-
GATION REACTED FAVORABLY TO ADASIYE DIVERSION WEIR
SCHEME AS APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL SOLUTION TO CONVEYING OF

WATER TO EAST GHOR MAIN CANAL AND TO YARMOUK TRIANGLE ADN LOOKED WITH FAVOR ON ITS EARLY CONSTRUCTION. GOI DID NOT ENVISAGE ANY PROBLEM WITH ACCESS TO CONSTRUCTION SITE IF DESIGN ASPECTS OF DIVERSION WEIR COULD BE AGREED TO BY BOTH PARTIES. GOI ACKNOWLEDGED VALIDITY OF SOME OF THE JOHNSTON PLAN PRINCIPLES WITH RESPECT TO WATER ALLOCATION AND FLOW, BUT IN A 1977 CONTEXT. GOI OFFICIALS ALSO PROVIDED SOME COMMENTS ON HARZA FEASIBILITY STUDY, BUT ARE STILL REVIEWING SECTIONS OF HARZA STUDY JUST RECEIVED. GOI PROVIDED DATA REQUESTED BY GOJ, INCLUDING DATA ON HYDROLOGY, QUALITY OF JORDAN RIVER WATER, CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF DEAD SEA WATER AND DEPTHS, AND STATUS OF MEDITERRANEAN-DEAD SEA CANAL. GOI STILL IN PROCESS OF COMPILING DATA ON WATER FLOW AND UTILIZATION IN YARMOUK TRIANGLE WHICH WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOJ IN COUPLE OF WEEKS. AS NEXT STEPS, SUGGEST DISCUSSION GOI RESPONSE WITH AMBASSADOR PICKERING WHEN TAUBENBLATT VISITS AMMAN STARTING MAY 30, PRIOR TO FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH GOJ OFFICIALS. GOI DELEGATION ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DESPITE TAKING OF OFFICE BY NEW GOVERNMENT, THEY ANTICIPATED CONTINUITY IN JERUSALEM HANDLING OF THE MAQARIN DAN ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MAY 25 MEETING WAS HELD IN JERUSALEM AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFIARS (MFA). THE ISRAELI DELEGATION INCLUDED MOSHE ALON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, MFA (HEAD OF DELEGATION); MENACHEM KANTOR, ISRAELI WATER COMMINSIONER; YAKOV VARDI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, TAHAL (ISRAELI WATER PLANNING COMMISSION), COL. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 03800 01 OF 03 271744Z

CHANAN ALON, PLANNING DIVISION, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND ROBERT SABEL, LEGAL ADVISOR'S OFFICE, MFA. THE U.S. TECHNICAL TEAM INCLUDED SELIG A. TAUBENBLATT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AID/NE/CD (TEAM LEADER); ROSCOE SUDDARTH, DCM, EMBASSY AMMAN; WILLIAM DOZIER, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, EMBASSY TEL AVIV; THOMAS PEARSON, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, USAID/AMMAN; TED FEIFER, ECONOMIC OFFICER, EMBASSY TEL AVIV; AND WILLIAM ROMIG, AID WATER RESOURCES CONSULTATNT. THE U.S. DELEGATION PROPOSED AN AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WHICH WAS ACCEPTED BY THE ISRAELIS. THIS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- (A) STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS TO DATE AND GOJ DATA REQUEST.
- (B) FIVE AREAS OF CONCERN INCLUDING WATER AVAILABILITY, FLOW AND QUALITY, ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, PALESTINE POWER CONCESSION AND THE WEST BANK.
- (C) ADASIYE DIVERSION WEIR AND CONSTRUCTION SITE.
- (D) COMMENTS ON HARZA FEASIBILITY STUDY.
- (E) SUMMARY OF AREAS OF DIFFERENCE.

2. U.S. TEAM ACCOMPANIED BY VARDI VISITED ON MAY 26 NAHARAYYIM RESERVOIR AND PUMPING STATION YARMOUK TRIANGLE AND LAKE TIBERIAS OUTLETS INTO JORDAN RIVER, WEST BANK AND VIEWED PALESTINE POWER POOL. ADDITIONAL INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE WITH VARDI ON MAQARIN SISSUES ON THIS DATE. TAUBENBLATT AND FEIFER ALSO MET WITH MOSHE ALON ON MAY 27 AND RECEIVED FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS.

3. THE FOLLOWING SETS FORTH GOI COMMENTS WITH RESPECT TO NEXT STEPS IN DEALING WITH WATER RIGHTS ISSUE RELATING TO MAQARIN DAM PROJECT.

4. GOI DELEGATION AGAIN EMPHASIZED DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH ITS NEIGHBOR, JORDAN, IN MAQARIN DAM DEVELOPMENT AND IS PREPARED TO MAKE DATA AVAILABLE, AND PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS BASED ON ISRAELI EXPERIENCE SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF WATER IN THE AREA THROUGH THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TEL AV 03800 01 OF 03 271744Z

BEST TECHNICAL MEANS.

A. WATER AVAILABILITY AND FLOW. GOI OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO PROTECT ISRAELI RIGHTS IN THE YARMOUK TRIANGLE, THAT THE HISTORICAL UTILIZATION OF WATER IN THE

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03800 02 OF 03 271801Z
ACTION AID-59

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 TEL AVIV 3800

TRIANGLE MUST BE RESPECTED, AND THAT STRUCTURES FOR WATER STORAGE AND CONVEYANCE (I.E., THE DIVERSION WEIR) SHOULD TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT. GOI AGAIN QUESTIONED 17 MCM FIGURE IN HARZA REPORT AND THE BASIS FOR IT. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, INCLUDING U.S. TEAM'S REFERENCE TO THE JOHNSTON PLAN 25 MCM FIGURE, THE GOI (VARDI) STATED THAT GOI WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO 25 MCM FIGURE PLUS RESIDUAL FLOWS OF WATER PASSING THE DIVERSION STRUCTURES AND OTHERWISE BEING WASTED. GOI OFFICIALS FURTHER EMPHASIZED THAT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN 25 MCM AVERAGE ANNUAL FIGURE IS THE 2.3 CMS FLOW RATE DURING THE DRY SUMMER MONTHS, WHICH WAS AGREED TO BY JORDAN DURING THE 1960'S AND WHICH WAS SET FORTH IN A STATE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM AT THAT TIME. GOI OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THEY CAN EVEN BE FLEXIBLE ON THE 2.3 CMS AND THAT THE ADASIYE DIVERSION WEIR WOULD PROVIDE BETTER ASSURANCE THAT THE 2.3 CMS TO THE TRIANGLE WOULD BE SATISFIED DURING THE DRY SUMMER MONTHS. NOTE: THE 2.3 CMS FOR FOUR SUMMER MONTHS EQUALS ABOUT 25 MCM PER ANNUM. THE GOI DID NOT FEEL THAT THE OTHER EIGHT MONTHS ARE A PROBLEM IN NORMAL YEARS. THE ISRAELIS DID NOT SEE AS AN ISSUE YARMOUK AVAILABILITY AND FLOW (IF AT ABOUT 2.3 CMS), PARTICULARLY

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03800 02 OF 03 271801Z

IF THE DIVERSION WEIR WAS CONSTRUCTED. GOI (VARDI) SAW NO PROBLEM IN WORKING OUT THE ACCEPTABLE AMOUNTS FOR DRY SEASON RELEASES.

B. QUALITY - THE GOI WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT THE MAQARIN DAM PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE FOR BETTER QUALITY OF WATER DOWN STREAM ON THE YARMOUK AS ASSERTED BY THE GOJ, BUT AGREED THAT MAQARIN WOULD NOT HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON QUALITY AND THUS IS NOT AN ISSUE.

C. ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT - GOI OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS FIRST AROSE WITH CONSTRUCTIONS OF EAST GHOR MAIN CANAL AND ISRAELI'S NATIONAL WATER CARRIER AND THAT MAQARIN DAM WILL FURTHER AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION (I.E., THE JORDAN RIVER AND DEAD SEA LEVEL). HOWEVER, GOI OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT ON BALANCE MAQARIN WOULD BE A PROGRESSIVE STEP. GOI ACKNOWLEDGED DEPLETION OF DEAD SEA, BUT HAD NO SUGGESTIONS HOW TO STOP SUCH DEPLETION. GOI (VARDI) MENTIONED MEDITERRANEAN-DEAD SEA CANAL SCHEME AS POSSIBLE SOLUTION AND THAT THE FIRST STAGE TECHNICAL STUDY IS IN PROCESS AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1977 FOR REVIEW.

D. PALESTINE ELECTRIC POWER CONCESSION - ISRAELI MFA LEGAL ADVISOR SABEL STATED THAT CONCESSION STILL VALID, BUT WAS NOT CONSIDERED AS A MAJOR OBSTACLE REQUIRING

EARLY RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, GOI WISHED TO HAVE CONCES-
SION QUESTION "ON THE TABLE" TO BE DISCUSSED AT A LATER
DATE. NOTE: U.S. TECHNICAL TEAM ASSESSMENT IS THAT GOI
USING POWER POOL CONCESSION AS BARGAINING CARD IN
CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER ISSUES AS QUID PRO QUO.

E. WEST BANK - GOI DOES NOT ACCEPT POSTPONEMENT OF
PLANNING FOR WEST BANK WATER AVAILABILITY AND AGRICUL-
TURAL LAND DEVELOPMENT, NOR IN MAKING IT DEPENDENT ON
FUTURE ARAB-ISRAELI POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. THEY BELIEVE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 03800 02 OF 03 271801Z

THAT SOME AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF ALLOCATING WATER
AND A METHOD OF CONVEYING WATER TO THE AREA MUST BE
REACHED AT EARLY STAGE IN DEVELOPMENT OF MAQARIN DAM.
GOI NOTED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST BANK WITHOUT
CONSIDERATION FOR THE WEST BANK WOULD BE UNFAIR TO
PEOPLE LIVING ON THE WEST BANK AND COULD RESULT IN THEIR
FEELING ISOLATED, WHICH WOULD LEAD TO DISSATISFACTION AT
SOME POINT IN FUTURE. THEY BELIEVE AGREEMENT ON THIS
ISSUE MUST BE REACHED REGARDLESS OF WHOEVER HAS POLITICAL
CONTROL OVER THE WEST BANK. THEY RECOGNIZED THEIR
OWN OBLIGATION TO SUPPLY WATER TO THE WEST BANK BUT STATED
THEAT THEY PRESENTLY UTILIZING ALL AVAILABLE WATER
RESOURCES AT HIGH EFFICIENCY AND COULD NOT DIVERT WATER
FROM PRESENT USERS WITHOUT ASSURANCES THAT ALL OTHER
AVAILABLE RESOURCES, INCLUDING EAST AND WEST BANK,
WERE BEING ADEQUATELY DEVELOPED AND BEING EFFECTIVELY
UTILIZED. THEY NOTED THAT THE HARZA REPORT IN
DISCUSSION "ULTIMATE" DEVELOPMENT OF YARMOUK RIVER AND
SECOND DAM AT WADI KHALID, INDICATED THAT WATER WAS SHOWN
TO REMAIN AVAILABLE FOR SOME 5,000 HECTARES WITHOUT
IDENTIFYING LOCATION OF ITS USAGE. THEY ALSO NOTED
THAT HARZA DID NOT SUPPORT THEIR STATEMENT THAT
GROUNDWATER ON THE EAST BANK WAS NOT AVAILABLE AS
A SOURCE OF WATER. GOI DOES NOT BELIEVE
THAT PLANNING WATER AVAILABILITY AND DELIVERY TO THE
WEST BANK CAN BE LEFT AS A RESIDUAL REQUIREMENT IN BOTH
QUANTITY AND TIME. GOI MENTIONED THAT LEACHING LAND ON
EAST BANK IS NOT BEST REGIONAL SOLUTION WHEN BETTER LAND
IS AVAILABLE ON WEST BANK. GOI STATED THAT WHILE THEY
APPRECIATED THAT IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO
PIN DOWN SPECIFIC AMOUNTS OF WATER FOR WEST BANK UTILI-
ZATION OR AMOUNTS OF HECTARES FOR WEST BANK DEVELOPMENT,
NEVERTHELESS THE PRINCIPLE OF WEST BANK ALLOCATION, CON-
VEYANDE, AND AGRICULTURAL LAND DEVELOPMENT WILL HAVE TO
BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN SOME FORM OF AGREEMENT. GOI DID NOT
MAKE ANY SUGGESTIONS ON FORM OR CONTENT OF SUCH AN
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PAGE 04 TEL AV 03800 02 OF 03 271801Z

AGREEMENT. GOI ACKNOWLEDGED JOHNSTON PLAN ALLOCATION FROM LAKE TIBERIAS AS PRINCIPLE WHICH GOI PLANS TO HONOR, IN CONTEXT OF SITUATION OF 1977. SINCE ALL GOI WATER RESOURCES, INCLUDING LAKE TIBERIAS WATER BEING FULLY UTILIZED, ISRAEL CAN ONLY CONSIDER SUCH WATER FOR WEST BANK, IF IT HAS SATISFIED ITSELF THAT JORDAN IS EFFICIENTLY USING ALL OF ITS AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

4. DIVERSION WEIR - GOI REPS CONSIDER DIVERSION WEIR AS DESIRABLE AND FEEL THAT CONSTRUCTION WOULD ALLOW MORE EFFICIENT USE OF YARMOUK WATER AND COULD BE A STEP TOWARDS BETTER COOPERATION BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL.

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03800 03 OF 03 271633Z

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 IGA-02 TRSE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 TEL AVIV 3800

THEY BELIEVE THAT IF AGREEMENT ON WEIR OPERATION, CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND OTHER TECHNICAL MATTERS CAN BE REACHED, THAT WEIR SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTED AT AN EARLY DATE, WELL AHEAD OF THE MAQARIN DAM. GOI BELIEVES THAT WEIR WOULD BENEFIT BOTH PARTIES BY MAKING AVAILABLE TO BOTH MORE WATER IN THE CRITICAL DRY PERIODS DURING SUMMER MONTHS. (SEE PARA 3A ABOVE). WITH REGARD TO ACCESS TO CONSTRUCTION SITE IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED AREA, THEY STATED THAT IF A SOLUTION TO OTHER DIVERSION WEIR QUESTIONS ARE FOUND, THAT ACCESS WOULD BE NO PROBLEM AND THAT SIMILAR SOLUTION AS BRIDGE REPAIRS COULD ALSO BE APPLIED TO CONSTRUCTION

SITE. THEY FURTHER STATED THAT SOLUTION TO CONSTRUCTION SITE ACCESS SHOULD BE GIVEN MINIMUM PUBLICITY. "THE LESS SAID, THE BETTER."

5.COMMENTS ON HARZA REPORT - THE GOI OFFICIALS STATED THAT THEY HAD NOT HAD TIME TO STUDY THE REPORT IN DETAIL SINCE CERTAIN SECTIONS JUST RECEIVED AND THAT ADDITIONAL COMMENTS WOULD BE PROVIDED BY JUNE 15. THEY NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE STUDY DID NOT PROVIDE EXPLANATION OF ADJUSTMENT OF WATER INFLOW TO MAQARIN RESULTING FROM SYRIAN USES. ACCORDING TO GOI, PRAVDA REPORTS MUCH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03800 03 OF 03 271633Z

HIGHER USES CONTEMPLATED BY SYRIA. SYRIAN NEWSPAPER TISHRIN HAS ALSO MENTIONED SYRIAN PLANS TO DEVELOP 15,000 HECTARES IN UPPER REACHES OF YARMOUK. THEREFORE, GOI DESIRES MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS POINT. GOI OFFICIALS WERE DISTURBED BY HARZA'S BRIEF COMMENT ON THE NONAVAILABILITY OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES IN JORDAN. THEY CONTEND THAT THEIR STUDIES INDICATE THAT EXCELLENT POSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR DEVELOPING GROUNDWATER RESOURCES IN EAST BANK UTILIZING DRILLING OF DEEP (800-1,000 METERS) WELLS. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING WATER REQUIREMENT AMOUNTS COMPARED WITH MOST EFFICIENT IRRIGATION PRACTICES. THEY OFFERED TO DISCUSS THESE AREAS WITH GOJ OR HARZA.

6. DATA REQUESTED BY GOI - THE GOI PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING DATA REQUESTED BY THE GOJ:

- (A) HYDROLOGICAL YEARBOOK (10 YEARS);
 - (B) CHEMICAL ANALYSIS DEAD SEA WATERS AT VARIOUS DEPTHS;
 - (C) SALINITY MEASUREMENTS OF JORDAN RIVER WATER 1975-76 AT SPECIFIED LOCATIONS;
 - (D) CHLORINE AND ELECTRICAL CONDUCTIVITY MEASUREMENTS ON WATERS OF JORDAN AND YARMOUK RIVERS 1974-76;
 - (E) CHLORINE AND ELECTRICAL CONDUCTIVITY MEASUREMENTS OF JORDAN RIVER WATER AT DAMIYA AND ALLENBY BRIDGES 1973-75;
 - (F) CHLORINE AND ELECTRICAL CONDUCTIVITY TESTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS OF WATER IN JORDAN RIVER IN 1975 BY MEKOROT;
 - AND
 - (G) MEMORANDUM ON THE MEDITERRANEAN-DEAD SEA POWER SCHEME.
- DATA ON YARMOUK TRANGLE WATER AVAILABILITY AND USES ARE STILL BEING COMPILED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE MID-JUNE 1977.

7. GOI REQUEST FOR DATA - THE GOI REQUESTED ANOTHER COMPLETE SET OF THE HARZA'S FEASIBILITY REPORT AND GEOLOGICAL MAPS OF THE WATERSHEDS OF THE EAST GHOR. WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 03800 03 OF 03 271633Z

RESPECT TO LATTER, GOI THOUGHT THEIR GEOLOGISTS COULD MAKE SOME CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS TO JORDAN ON GROUND-WATER GEOLOGY.

8. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS - GOJ CONTINUES TO SHOW A WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH JORDAN IN MAQARIN DAM DEVELOPMENT AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WORKING WITH JORDAN EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH A THIRD PARTY IN DEALING WITH PROBLEMS RELATING TO MAQARIN/YARMOUK RIVER PROJECT. EXCEPT FOR THE WEST BANK WATER AVAILABILITY ISSUE WHICH REMAINS UNRESOLVED, PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THE AVAILABILITY OF WATER FOR THE YARMOUK TRIANGLE, WATER FLOW AND QUALITY AND ON ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT. WHILE THE GOI HAS NOT CONCEDED THE PALESTINE POWER POOL CONCESSION ISSUE, THEY NEVERTHELESS REPRESENTED IT AS SOLUABLE WITHOUT A NEED TO ADDRESS IT NOW. THE GOI ACCEPTANCE OF THE ADASIYE DIVERSION WEIR AS SOLUTION TO DIVERT WATER TO THE EAST GHOR MAIN CANAL AND TO THE YARMOUK TRIANGLE AND THE EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF THE WEIR WAS ENCOURAGING AS WAS THE ISRAELI ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SOME OF THE JOHNSTON PLAN PRINCIPLES, E.G., THE 25 MCM FIGURE (OR 2.3 CMS DURING THE FOUR DRY MONTHS). THERE ARE STILL NUMEROUS TECHNICAL FACTORS THAT HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BY BOTH PARTIES SUCH AS THE DESIGN OF THE DIVERSION WEIR AND WATER FLOW.

9. IN VIEW OF STRONG GOI POSITION ON WEST BANK, U.S. TECHNICAL TEAM SEES THIS AS KEY ISSUE THAT WILL HAVE TO BE FACED IN THE IMMEDIATE PERIOD AHEAD. HOWEVER, ISRAELI ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE NEED TO AGREE IN "PRINCIPLE" RATHER THAN TO SPECIFIC WATER AMOUNTS OR HECTARES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TO BE DEVELOPED IN WEST BANK MAY HELP FACILITATE A RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM. THE GOI SUGGESTED THAT MEETING WITH JORDANIAN OFFICIALS ON TECHNICAL LEVEL OR WITH HARZA, IF POSSIBLE, MAY HELP SPEED UP SOME AGREEMENT ON ISSUES AND RELATED TECHNICAL FACTORS, SUCH AS DESIGN

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 TEL AV 03800 03 OF 03 271633Z

OF DIVERSION WEIR.

10. ABOVE ISSUES WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR PICKERING DURING TAUBENBLATT VISIT TO AMMAN STARTING MAY 30 AND WITH GOJ OFFICIALS. WE WILL CABLE FURTHER ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING NEXT STEPS AFTER AMMAN MEETINGS. MEMCON OF MAY 25, 1977, MEETING BEING

POUCHED.

11. IN SEVERAL INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, GOI DELEGATION MEMBERS GAVE THEIR OPINIONS THAT THEY DID NOT BELIEVE NEW LIKUD GOVERNMENT WOULD RESULT IN ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES TO GOI HANDLING OF MAQARIN DAM ISSUES. EMBASSY TEL AVIV BELIEVES THAT THE MAKE-UP AND POLICIES OF A LIKUD GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY, AND ONLY TIME WILL TELL HOW THEY WILL APPROACH THIS AND OTHER WATER ISSUES WITH JORDAN.
LEWIS

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